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Docket: 2861US

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**APPLICANT(S):** Keith L. Milliman, et. al.

**EXAMINER:**

To Be Assigned

**SERIAL NO.:** To Be Assigned

**GROUP UNIT:**

To Be Assigned

**FILED:** Concurrently Herewith

**INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.:** PCT/US2003/031638

**INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE:** 06 October 2003

**PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED:** 06 October 2002

**TITLE:** SURGICAL STAPLING DEVICE

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendments  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir/Madam:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.


**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.

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**CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.10**

I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to as enclosed are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on date below in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Patent Application, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: 3/23/2005

  
Susan S. Rickard